

ARIZONA NEWS RELEASE

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Press Release Announcement – (April 25, 2005)
- For Immediate Release -

ARIZONA CATTLE ON FEED INVENTORY UP 10 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO

Phoenix – On April 1, 2005, Arizona had 323,000 head of cattle on feed for the slaughter market, up 10 percent from a year ago. Placements in feedlots during March totaled 27,000 head, down 6,000 head from March, 2004. Marketings of fed cattle during March were estimated at 24,000 head, the same as the previous March. California had 500,000 head of cattle on feed for the slaughter market on April 1, up 1 percent from the previous year. Placements in feedlots totaled 65,000 head, down 5,000 head from a year ago. Marketings of fed cattle were 70,000 head, a decrease of 1,000 head from last March.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.9 million head on April 1, 2005. The inventory was 1 percent above April 1, 2004 and 1 percent above April 1, 2003. The inventory included 6.99 million steers and steer calves, up 5 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 64 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.80 million head, down 6 percent from 2004.

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Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.76 million, 3 percent below 2004 and 13 percent below 2003. This is the second lowest placements for the month of March since the series began in 1996. Net placements were 1.69 million. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 299,000, 600-699 pounds were 320,000, 700-799 pounds were 614,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 527,000. Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.97 million, up slightly from 2004 and 9 percent above 2003. Other disappearance totaled 69,000 during March, 3 percent above 2004 and 11 percent above 2003.